



USARSO Spouses Host the 1st Fall Coffee



The USARSO Spouses had the first Fall Coffee this past week. The coffee's will begin again on a monthly basis.

Look for your invites in the Newsletter and email boxes.

Hope to see you at the next Coffee!

USARSO Reenlistments



SGT Electa Pifern was reenlisted by MAJ Ramiro Salazar, USARSO SGS.



SGT Matthew Smith was reenlisted by CPT Boris Christopher, USARSO HHC Commander.

Government Purchase Card Updates!!!

CYCLE CHANGE - Beginning in November 2005, the GPC billing cycle changes from the 23rd to the 19th of each month. This means our new billing cycle will run from the 20th of each month through the 19th of the following month and we will approve/certify our billing statements in CARE on the morning of the 20th. (Because the 19th of November falls on a Saturday, the November cycle date will end on the 18th). Currently, the Army, Air Force and other defense agencies all have separate billing cycles and the rationale behind this change is to standardize the different DOD agencies billing cycles within U.S. Bank. This cycle change is applicable to all DOD Agencies utilizing U.S. Bank.

ACCESS ON LINE -

WHAT - Access Online replaces C.A.R.E.

WHEN - Spring 2006

WHY- Industry technology has improved significantly since 1998 when original CARE application was developed.

BENEFITS over CARE -

- Improved user interface
- No more applets
- More data and information
- Greater flexibility and scalability
- More data available in reporting - 24 months data can be generated at once (no 3 months at a time)

- Rolling balance information 17 November 2005
- Online Password Resets 15 December 2005

CREDIT WORTHINESS - Currently pending PMO guidance, a working draft will be provided to the billing officials. This change will require a credit check on new cardholders prior to processing of GPC application and a GPC will be issued based on the applicant's FICA scores. The PMO is currently working guidelines and processes.

REMINDERS

Forgot your **USER** name/password? Call US Bank directly for assistance at 1-888-994-6722.

Also, three unsuccessful attempts to log on will lock the user out of CARE and the following message is received: ["USER status considered inactive. Contact your program administrator"](#).

Again, the cardholder/billing official should contact U.S. Bank customer service and request their account be unlocked.

If your **USER ID** is not utilized within 6 months the **ID** is considered invalid and will be removed by U.S. Bank and a new **USER ID** must be requested. A special reminder to alternate billing officials: Log onto CARE every couple of months to keep your **USER ID** active/valid.

MONTHLY TRAINING

Scheduled GPC training for first quarter of fiscal year 2006:

20 October 2005

This training is for those persons identified to be cardholders/billing officials or alternates.

REFRESHER TRAINING

Annual refresher training will be held during the first quarter of FY06. Date to be determined based on availability of computer classroom.

TOPICS- TRANSACTION LOG in CARE and **REALLOCATION** in CARE

(remember, transaction log use is mandatory)

RESOURCES - ONLINE TRAINING

Access the CARE web-based training by visiting: <https://wbt/care.usbank.com>. Contact the Agency Program Coordinator for the (WBT) password.

As always, your continued support of the Government Purchase Card Program is appreciated!

Angela F. Holloway

Agency Program Coordinator

Government Purchase Card

Angela.Holloway@samhouston.army.mil
(210) 295-6128

USARSO Well Being Office hosts Master Trainer course with three Latin American countries

By Kevin W. Sieling
US Army South Public Affairs

The United States Army South Well Being office hosted the first Latin American Army Family Team building Master Trainers course in downtown San Antonio August 15 to 19. Foreign delegations from El Salvador, Honduras, and Colombia joined AFTB representatives from Department of the Army and US Army South to train Latin American army spouses and family members as AFTB Master Trainers.

As part of their agreement to attend the Master Trainer Course and in the tradition of the AFTB volunteer philosophy, Latin American military family members accepted a commitment to restructure and revise the Spanish AFTB training material to meet the needs of their family members in their individual countries.

"Throughout this last year, the Well Being Office has had the opportunity to work with the Army section chiefs, commanders, spouses and volunteers from these countries to establish the AFTB program in their respective countries," said Sonia Caceres, USARSO Well Being manager. "We familiarized each host nation with the AFTB concept and conducted a full week of familiarization seminars. During these seminars, we presented the team building concept and modules selected by the host country."

"These instructors are committed to sharing the AFTB concept, recruiting and familiarizing other volunteers, develop work groups to revise the AFTB modules and train new instructors. The Master Trainer course gives them the tools to meet these goals," she said.



The first Latin American Army Family Team Building Conference boasted representatives from Colombia, El Salvador and Honduras as well as AFTB representatives from Department of the Army and US Army South.

The AFTB program was developed in 1994 to strengthen the partnership between the Army and its families. The goal of the program is to enhance Army readiness by fostering personal and family preparedness and by enhancing the ability of family members to better manage their lives within the Army culture. This family member program uses the Army's proven Train-the-Trainer approach to deliver family member instruction. Representatives from Department of the Armies Enrichment Division actively participated in the seminar and provided valuable insight.

"We are honored and excited to provide the tools that will help each country implement the AFTB program," said Grace Smith, Department of the Army Curriculum Training Specialist. "We are here to help you in anyway possible to ensure the successfulness of your programs when you return home. I challenge you to keep and open mind throughout this experience, enjoy yourselves and have fun."

The Master Trainer course is a culmination of more than six years of demanding work and determination from USARSO's Well Being office and the initiative stemmed from a

meeting with the spouse of a former Army chief of staff.

During the Conference of American Armies in November 1999, Mrs. Eric Shinseki made a commitment to the leaders of the Latin American Armies to introduce and assist with implementing AFTB. This implementation plan began with Guatemala, Ecuador, and Bolivia during 2001 and continued into Nicaragua, Trinidad & Tobago and Dominican Republic during 2002. During 2004 and 2005 El Salvador, Colombia and Honduras joined this initiative.

USARSO took careful consideration of cultural needs and tailored the training to the individual needs of Honduras, El Salvador and Colombia.

"The benefits are many, develop self sufficient families that can help each other to deal with the different aspects of the military way of life," said Caceres. "At the same time, reinforce the Army values, contribute to soldier readiness, mission, recruitment and retention. A soldier that is confident that his/her family is prepared to deal with the challenges the military way of life brings, can better concentrate on his or her mission."

Conference of American Armies Sets the Stage for the Bi-annual Army Commanders' Conference

The Conference of American Armies (CAA), Preparatory Conference was hosted by the Argentine Army in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 29 Aug – 2 Sep 05. The U.S. Army delegation of nine was headed by COL Thomas A. Heaney Jr., Deputy Commander for Operations, U.S. Army South.

Delegates from the armies of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela attended the conference.

The purpose of this conference was to set the agenda for the XXVI Commanders' Conference which will take place in Buenos Aires from 29 Oct - 4 Nov 05. Through extensive discussion and debates the group agreed on six Accords on subjects such as Disaster Relief and Doctrine,

Communications, Logistics, and Training and Education as they pertain to Peace Operations. These accords will be presented to the Conference of American Armies Commanders in November for their approval.

One of the highlights of the conference was the selection and ratification of the Army of Brazil as the host for the XXVII CAA Cycle (2006-2007) and the Army of Venezuela as host for the XXVIII Cycle (2008-2009). In addition, the following proposals were made, pending approval of the CAA Commanders, for hosting the XXVII CAA Cycle Specialized Conferences:

Specialized Conference
Host Army
Date
Doctrine
USA
April 2006
Science & Technology

Argentina
June 2006

Education & Training

Bolivia

Sep 2006

Disaster Relief /Exercise

Venezuela

March 2007

Logistics

El Salvador

May 2007

Peacekeeping Operations Exercise

Argentina

June 2007

General Peter J. Schoomaker, Chief of Staff, U.S. Army, will head the U.S. Army Delegation for the XXVII Commanders' Conference scheduled for November 2005. General Schoomaker will take this opportunity to hold bilateral conversations with most of his counterparts from the Western Hemisphere.



CPT Hernandez was promoted to Major in the Military Police Corps.

The newly promoted Major Hernandez and his wife Olga are cutting the cake after the ceremony in building 1000, G6 Conference room.

Congratulations on your promotion!

United States Army South 2005-2006 Combined Federal Campaign

The United States Army South's personnel have an opportunity to make a difference in the San

Antonio Community, the nation and the world this year.

The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) is the single largest charitable campaign in the United States. It offers you the convenience of using payroll deduction to make charitable contributions. These donations are distributed **ONLY** to the charitable agencies that are designated by the donor. Many of us cannot afford to give a sizeable check for a



single donation, but we can designate an amount of money each payday to be donated

to the CFC.

Last year the World-wide CFC Campaign raised \$357M. In San Antonio the CFC raised \$4,726K for charitable agencies. USARSO contributed \$51.6K, exceeding our goal of \$49K. This year our goal is an attainable \$53.2K.

Every one of us has been directly affected by programs and services provided by agencies listed in the CFC

brochure. Agencies in the CFC solicit funds for almost all services needed in our community. We get to choose where we want our contribution to go, and an independent Certified Public Accountant ensures that it gets there.

This year's theme is "CFC...Changing Lives, One Gift at a Time." The emphasis is on the importance of your individual gift. As President John F. Kennedy said, "One person can make a difference and every person should try."

To contribute to this year's CFC, please contact your unit representative or the Well Being office at 295-6234, 6873 or 6345.

USARSO Community News Publication Dates



Submit by date

October 26, 2005

Publication date

November 4, 2005

Please submit information you would like to have included in the USARSO Newsletter to kevin.sieling@samhouston.army.mil or sandra.ramey@samhouston.army.mil

IN & AROUND TEXAS

Texas Rice Festival

Date: Sep 28-Oct1

Enjoy great food, carnival, livestock show, farm equipment exhibit, top Texas and Nashville entertainers, vendors, arts & crafts and more. Winnie-Stowell Park. E-mail: trf01@alltel.net

Autumn in Bonham Festival

Date: Sep 29-Oct2

City: [Bonham](#)

Come and enjoy the festivities, including arts & crafts show, musical events, road bike rally and food galore. E-mail: bonhambill@cableone.net

Oh Boy! Oberto Redfish Cup & Redfish Festival

Date: Sep 29-Oct1

City: [South Padre Island](#)

Enjoy a variety of exhibits, corporate promotions, vendor booths, cooking demonstrations, 'Big Air' dog-diving competition, log-rolling competition and more. All festival events and the fishing tournament are held at the Fish Bones Pier and Grill.

Texas Shrimp Fest

Date: Sep 30-Oct1

Family friendly event features shrimp and other foods. Includes Tejano and country music on two stages with outstanding local talent, raffle, auction, craft fair, carnival and more. Helotes Festival Grounds. E-mail: mrneil@texasshrimpfest.com

Oktoberfest

Date: Sep 30-Oct1, 7-8

City: [San Antonio](#)

Family-oriented event offers authentic German music, food, drink, dance, and entertainment. Beethoven Halle und Garten.

Hill Country Fall Fest & Texas Wine Auction

Date: Sep 30-Oct1

Fine food by top chefs, Texas wine, live music, golf, cooking demonstrations, car & boat show, and more. Horseshoe Bay Resort Marriott Hotel.

Oktoberfest

Date: Sep 30-Oct2

City: [Fredericksburg](#)

Celebrate with German music and entertainment, lots of German food and drink, artisans and kinderpark. Hours are 6 p.m. to midnight Friday, 10 a.m. to midnight Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. Marktplatz.

Bayfest 2005

Date: Sep 30-Oct2

City: [Corpus Christi](#)

Celebrates the unique cultural and ethnic diversity of the Coastal Bend. Brings people together in a colorful explosion of music, arts & crafts, children's activities, entertainment, fun, food and game booths. North Shoreline Boulevard.

Fine Arts Festival

Date: Oct 1-2

City: [Buda](#)

Features artists from across Texas with works in medium of photography, pottery, oil, pastels, jewelry and mixed media. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Greenbelt in Downtown Buda.

Peanut Festival

Date: Oct 1

Parade, entertainment, arts & crafts, kids' carnival.

Fall Family Festival

Date: Oct 1, 8, 15

City: [Round Rock](#)

Bingo and Italian Dinner Night begins at 5 p.m. Oct. 1. Auction and German Dinner Night begins at 6 p.m. Oct. 8. Family Fest — kids games, inflatables, ethnic foods, rides and more — occurs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 15. St. Barnabas Church, 1010 McNeil Road.

South Shore Dockside Food & Wine Festival

Date: Oct 1

The League City Rotary and Destination League City present distinctive cuisine, wine tasting, grape stomp, culinary demonstrations, high end exhibits, high performance boat and luxury yacht displays, art show, fashion shows, classic and foreign car displays, live music and unique interactive exhibits. Hours are 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. South Shore Harbour Resort Marina, 2500 South Shore Blvd.

Muster Days

Date: Oct 1-2

City: [Austin](#)

Enjoy military exhibits, demonstrations and historical re-enactments. Features a parade, flyovers, band concerts and food booths. Admission and parking are free. Shuttle buses are available from the parking areas. Texas National Guard's Camp Mabry.

Annual Taste of the Hills

Date: Oct 1

Includes food, beer and wine tasting; silent and live auction; live band and dancing. Hours are 7 to 11 p.m. Clyde Johnson Ranch, 3795 FM 1863. E-mail: bsbacoc@gvtc.com

Arbor Days

Date: Oct 1

Includes music, activities, food, trees, contests and more. Glenwyck Farms.

IN & AROUND TEXAS CONTINUED

Fiddlin' Fest

Date: Oct 1-2

City: [Georgetown](#)

Call or visit Web site for information.

Gulf Shrimp Festival

Date: Oct 1

City: [Brownsville](#)

This fun event also raises awareness of the plight of the shrimping industry and its workers. Proceeds benefit scholarships for young adults involved in the shrimping industry. Dean Porter Park. E-mail: brownsvilleinfo@brownsville.org

One Book Festival

Date: Oct 1

City: [Boerne](#)

Celebrates "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe." Includes music, crafts, sword fighting demonstration, edible book contest, costume contest, role playing and more. Hours are noon to 2 p.m. Main Plaza.

Texas Renaissance Festival

Date: Oct 1-Nov20

City: [Plantersville](#)

Visit this authentically re-created 53-acre 16th-century British village with more than 340 shoppes, games of skill, human-powered rides, three jousts concluding with the "Joust to the Death" and more. Includes 21 stages with more than 200 performances daily. The day ends with the Royal Fireworks at dusk. FM 1774.

Pumpkin Patch

Date: Oct 1-31

City: [Boerne](#)

Veteran's Park.

Halloween Movie Series

Date: Oct 1, 8, 15, 22

City: [Austin](#)

Saturdays at 1 p.m. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

Third Annual Walk for Women

Date: Oct 2

City: [South Padre Island](#)

Walk begins at 2 p.m. at the South Padre Island Convention Centre. Travel to Louies Backyard for a silent and live auction, free food

Wild Game Dinner

Date: Oct 2

City: [Johnson City](#)

Call or visit Web site for information.

122nd Guadalupe County Fair & PRCA Rodeo

Date: Oct 6-9

City: [Seguin](#)

Enjoy a carnival, educational displays, contests, entertainment, livestock and entertainment. Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association rodeo is held Thursday through Saturday. Ranch rodeo is on Sunday. Guadalupe County Fairgrounds.

Greek Festival

Date: Oct 6-9

City: [Houston](#)

Enjoy authentic Greek food, wine, dancing and artifacts. On the grounds of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral.

Seafair

Date: Oct 7-9

Celebrate the sea at this sea-themed fun festival right on the water. Watch hilarious crab races, dance to live entertainment and eat delicious seafood. Children will enjoy the water entertainment area, carnival and fishing tournaments. Area and guest chefs conduct seafood demonstrations with sampling. Land

parade is Saturday. E-mail: tourism@1rockport.org

19th Annual Gruene Music & Wine Fest

Date: Oct 7-9

City: [Gruene](#)

This Americana event benefits Hope Hospice and the United Way of Comal County. Features the best in live Texas music and Texas food and wines. Enjoy vintner and music events, Great Guitar Auction, silent auction and a special Sunday Gospel Brunch with a Texas Twist. Gruene Hall and The Grapevine in Historic Gruene. E-mail: mail@gruenetexas.com

Second Annual Fredericksburg Oktoberfest Knap-in & Lithic Arts Festival

Date: Oct 7-9

City: [Fredericksburg](#)

Watch the nation's top flintknappers and collectors celebrate this art form. The art covers the fashioning of useful tools from stone, including arrowheads, knives, spear points, drills and hide scrapers. Fort Martin Scott.

Bayou City Art Festival

Date: Oct 8-9

City: [Houston](#)

Houston's downtown skyline presents a dramatic backdrop for art, music, dance and interactive art. This annual juried fine art event boasts 300 acclaimed artists from throughout Texas and the world. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. In front of Houston's City Hall, around Hermann Square on Walker, Bagby and McKinney streets and Sam Houston Park downtown. E-mail: bayoucityartfest@aol.com



October is Fire Safety Month



Did you know that more people die in fires than in hurricanes, earthquakes, floods and all other natural disasters combined? Or that every year, children start nearly 100,000 fires?

Here are some NFPA published fire facts to keep in mind:

- Every **18** seconds, a fire department responds to a fire somewhere in the United States.
- About **80%** of all U.S. fire deaths occurred in home fires.
- Nationwide, there was a civilian fire death every **130** minutes.
- Nationwide, there was a civilian fire injury every **23** minutes.
- Smoking materials are the leading cause of civilian deaths in the United States and Canada, accounting for roughly **one-fourth of the total** in both countries. Many families are not taking the proper steps to protect themselves from fire dangers, with only 20 percent of homes regularly testing smoke alarms and just 54 percent of homes with children discussing how to escape if a fire strikes. "Smoke alarms and a well-rehearsed fire escape plan are the most important steps to prepare for a fire emergency at home," said Meri-K Appy, president, Home Safety Council. "A new study from the National Institute of Standards and Technology shows that you have less than three minutes to escape if a fire occurs, so early warning from smoke alarms is critical and every family member must know the quickest escape routes."

Tips for Trick-or-Treaters - Carry a flashlight, Walk, don't run, Stay on sidewalks, Obey traffic signals, Stay in familiar neighborhoods, Don't cut across yards or driveways. Wear a watch you can read in the dark, Make sure costumes don't drag on the ground, Shoes should fit (even if they don't go with your costume) Avoid wearing masks while walking from house to house, Carry only flexible knives, swords or other props, (If no sidewalk) walk on the left side of the road facing traffic, Wear clothing with reflective markings or tape, • Approach only houses that are lit, Stay away from and don't pet animals you don't know.

Parents - Make your child eat dinner before setting out, Children should carry quarters so they can call home, Ideally, young children of any age should be accompanied by an adult, If your children go on their own, be sure they wear a watch, preferably one that can be read in the dark, If you buy a costume, look for one made of flame-retardant material, Older children should know where to reach you and when to be home, You should know where they're going. Although tampering is rare, tell children to bring the candy home to be inspected before consuming anything, Look at the wrapping carefully and toss out anything that looks suspect.

Homeowners - Make sure your yard is clear of such things as ladders, hoses, dog leashes and flower pots that can trip the young ones, pets get frightened on Halloween. Put them up to protect them from cars or inadvertently biting a trick-or-treater, battery powered jack o'lantern candles are preferable to a real flame, if you do use candles, place the pumpkin well away from where trick-or-treaters will be walking or standing, make sure paper or cloth yard decorations won't be blown into a flaming candle, healthy food alternatives for trick-or-treaters include packages of low-fat crackers with cheese or peanut butter filling, single-serve boxes of cereal, packaged fruit rolls, mini boxes of raisins and single-serve packets of low-fat popcorn that can be microwaved later.